

## Annual Spy Scandal Develops in Bonn

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BONN, Oct. 26—Bonn apparently is going through its annual espionage scandal.

In the last three weeks there have been at least one suicide connected to espionage activities, one arrest in the Defense Ministry and escapes by six suspected agents to East Germany. There have been three other deaths that may have been connected to espionage activities.

Bonn has been a haven for spies ever since it became the West German capital 19 years ago. Since then not a year has passed without a major espionage scandal involving senior military officers, government officials, parliamentary deputies or journalists.

The outstanding case this year is that of Rear Adm. Hermann Lüdke, who was found shot to death Oct. 8 next to his car in a hunting area in the nearby Eifel mountains. He had been questioned a day before about a film from his miniature camera that had a dozen shots of secret documents of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Admiral Lüdke, 58 years old, had been one of the organization's top logistics officers.

In the intelligence community here there is a strong suspicion that he passed information to Soviet bloc agents about the disposition of United States atomic weapons in Europe.

An investigation of his case by the Bonn police, the federal Attorney General and the Military Security Service has prompted a full-scale parliamentary study into West German intelligence operations.

A second death that may be linked to espionage was that of Miss Edeltraut Grapentin, 52, a file clerk in the West German Press and Information Office. She took an overdose of sleeping tablets Oct. 16.

Yesterday a Government spokesman said that Miss Grapentin's case was simply a "personal tragedy." Today, however, Süddeutsche Zeitung, a respected newspaper, reported that she had been a member of an East German espionage ring working here.

The newspaper, quoting "reliable Bonn circles," said that Miss Grapentin was linked with six East German agents—two married couples and two single persons—who fled to East Berlin earlier this month. All six had been under observation by West German counterespionage agents.

The six fugitives were also

said to be linked to a secretary in the Defense Ministry who was arrested recently on suspicion of espionage.

Political circles in the capital still are speculating about possible espionage elements in the suicides this month of West Germany's deputy intelligence chief, Gen. Horst Wenland, and Lieut. Col. Pöhannes Grimm, a Defense Ministry official. The suicide of an Economics Ministry official and the disappearance of a senior Defense Ministry clerk are also under scrutiny.

### Pilot Held in Missile Theft

BONN, Oct. 26 (AP)—A West Germany fighter pilot has been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the theft of a Sidewinder air-to-air missile, police reported today.

Sgt. Maj. Wolf Diethard Knoppe, 33 years old, was arrested Tuesday at a North Atlantic Treaty Organization base near the Bavarian town of Neuburg, a police spokesman reported.

The police spokesman said that Sergeant Major Knoppe was suspected of having stolen the 150-pound rocket in October, 1967, and pushing it under a fence at the air base, where accomplices picked it up.